

10 Southwell Gardens
London S.W.

27 Feb 7

My dear Gray Our thoughts & best wishes are often with you and dear Mrs Gray on your southern tour and often I wish that it would have been possible for us to join you - Perhaps you wd not have found me so bad a travelling companion as I was in Virginia when I started so very much below par as I have rarely if ever found myself.

I do not write to you much as work - or at least engagements of one kind or other - is constantly pressing on me in London. - The most pressing reason for writing now is to tell you that Miss North is due at Mexico some time in March & that if you will let her know your intended movements she wd be very likely to make an effort to meet you somewhere in that region.

I had a very pleasant letter from her not long ago from Santiago - She seems thoroughly to have enjoyed that delightful country & to have found every sort of facility & attention both from Chilian & English residents -

We have had since mid January very mild weather - it was never really cold - and I saw 10 days ago quite 20 species in flower on the rock work at Kew - All these are fairly well. Harriet seems to be gradually getting strong but Dyer - has troubles - I fancy the liver is the cause - Hooker very well & Lady H. recovered in a few days from the trifling inconvenience of increasing her family - Hooker is beginning to talk rather often of retiring but I hope that may be postponed for some years - He is apt to worry himself overmuch about the small difficulties & troubles that must arise in the management of so large an institution

Now I must shut up with renewed good wishes and our love to Mrs Gray

Ever truly yours

John Ball